



NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER PUBLIC REGISTRY

There are over 500,000 registered sex offenders nationwide and statistics have shown that the recidivism rate for these offenders is high. Recent tragic events have shown that, while much has been accomplished to register sex offenders and provide community notification, more can be done. Real time access to public registry information nationwide is essential for citizens to help identify sex offenders beyond their own streets or neighborhoods.

The U.S. Department of Justice has designed an effective and affordable technology strategy—searching already existing public state and territory sex offender registries—to meet this immediate need and to deliver this critical information to America’s communities.

What It Is

The National Sex Offender Public Registry (NSOPR) uses the Internet to search for and display public sex offender data from state and territory registries. With a single query from any web-capable computer, NSOPR searches public state and territory sex offender registries to deliver matches. NSOPR’s design:

- Promotes public safety by using already existing sex offender data;
- Minimizes the time and funding required to create a new repository;
- Requires no special certifications, training, or fees for users;
- Allows state and local agencies to retain control over their data.

How It Works

Mirroring industry standards, the technology for NSOPR is relatively simple: web services and the Department of Justice’s Global Justice XML common computer language establish a link between already built and maintained public state and territory sex offender registries. The link then allows data from different hardware and software systems to be recognized and shown through the national search site. NSOPR provides an opportunity for states to participate in an unprecedented public safety resource by sharing public sex offender data with citizens who will benefit from its use.

Why It Matters

What would we do to protect just one child from the terrible and senseless acts of a sex offender? A secure and reliable national search site that gives citizens immediate access to public sex offender information across states is a vital step in protecting a child’s life, and reducing and preventing sex crimes and violence nationwide.

AT-A-GLANCE

- An information sharing system is the fastest way to get critical data to those who need it.
- All but two states currently have public sex offender registries available.
- No government system exists to link, securely and reliably, public state and territory sex offender registries to a national search site.
- Using web services and XML, DOJ can immediately link to existing public state sex offender registries to provide a national search tool for parents and other concerned Americans.
- Through any web-capable computer, citizens can enter a name, zip code, county, or other query to search for registered sex offenders across states.